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Turgot to Dr. Price of England, written in March, 1778, communicating suggestions as to our American constitution of that period. Naturally enough, he fails to observe the real aim of our revolution, and judges us as if we were trying to ground our constitutions on first principles, instead of merely applying to better advantage our inherited outfit of English ideals. But, nevertheless, these are the comments of a great and wise man, and we have reason to thank the kind friend that has made them accessible to us in the attractive little pamphlet above mentioned.

J. B. T.

BOUVIER'S LAW DICTIONARY. RAWLE'S REVISION. VOL. 2 — J. to Z.
By John Bouvier. A new edition by Francis Rawle. Boston: The Boston Book Co. 1897. pp. 1254.

To approach a law dictionary in its entirety on criticism bent does not at first blush strike one as an inspiring task. The high reputation of this standard work and Mr. Rawle's success with his previous edition of it, however, nerve the critic for the attack, and fortunately the study proves happier than the promise. There is much to please the general reader, much entertainment in this book, though its existence, of course, is excused only by its utility. It is unnecessary to add anything by way of general criticism to the review of the first volume of the present edition which will be found in 11 HARVARD LAW REVIEW, 420. It is possible, however, to consider this second volume in some of its details.

The dictionary is very complete. It would be difficult to hit on any topic which could properly be found in a law dictionary which is not discussed in this book. Not only are technical and "law words," if the expression may be permitted, defined, but words of ordinary use are taken up from the lawyer's point of view. For instance, the word "milk" might be omitted, not unreasonably, from a law dictionary. On page 411, however, "milk" is defined to be by weight of adjudicated cases skim milk, and the general American statutes providing for its inspection are considered. Quaint and almost forgotten legal terms, too, are discussed. Examples of these are "Tour d'Échelle" or the old right existing in certain parts of France of resting a ladder on your neighbor's wall, and "sworn brothers," which treats of formal covenants of friends to share each other's fortunes.

Important legal topics are discussed with a broad comprehension and with logical plan. When possible, the derivation of the word is given, then its short meaning, then its established legal significance, — as, for example, Baron Alderson's classic definition of negligence (p. 478), — then a general discussion of the whole subject embraced by the heading, including many citations by way of authority and illustration. The discussions of "mental suffering," "tort," "partnership," "libel," and "malice" struck the writer as especially helpful. There is much more than mere definition; there is enlightened consideration in accord with advanced but generally accepted legal ideas.

Certain other details deserve to be noticed. There are no less than forty pages of legal maxims briefly defined and supported by authorities; brief summaries of the constitutions and general laws of all the States of our Union; a list of the leading English and American reports with their abbreviations and the periods they cover; and discussions of statutes of present and historical importance such as the Thelusson Act and *Quia Emptores*.

The citations in the dictionary are full, comprising, of course, both English and American cases, and are brought strictly down to date. Many 1898 cases are to be found. It is gratifying to write that among the authorities cited the HARVARD LAW REVIEW figures not once or twice, but frequently throughout the entire book, and not only in respect to its leading articles, but through its notes and recent cases as well.

R. L. R.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE. By Charles Fisk Beach, Jr. Third edition. By John J. Crawford. New York. Baker, Voorhis, & Co. 1899. pp. cxxxiii, 702.

The main value of Mr. Beach's book on Contributory Negligence has been, as was intended, as an office tool. It contented itself with showing clearly the actual state of the law on contributory negligence and the application of it in the various situations where the question has arisen. It was clear and firm in its explanations, copious in citations, characterized by good sense, in all a most useful book. A new edition of such a work is then important, because the value of it to the practicing lawyer lies largely in the fact that it is a complete statement of the law he is working under. This new edition has attempted, apparently, to do just one thing—to bring the book up to date. It is in no sense a revision. The material of the last edition remains absolutely unchanged,—not a paragraph is taken away—only the additions which have been made to the law of contributory negligence since the second edition of 1892 are fitted into place in the scheme of the book. When we consider the number of decisions in the last few years which have dealt with the subject the amount added to the text seems surprisingly small—some half-dozens of paragraphs only. These added sections deal with new topics constantly before the courts,—a landowner's liability to trespassing children, the rules in regard to the use of electricity as a motor, the doctrines of imputed negligence, etc., and in themselves are adequate, but it is absurd to say they represent the growth of the law on contributory negligence for the last six years. That portion of the work of the new addition seems half-hearted.

The collection and arrangement of recent authorities in the form of foot-notes, is, to the editor's mind, of greater importance, and there the work is, apparently, well done. A handful of representative recent cases, such as *O'Toole v. Pittsburgh & L. E. R. Co.*, 27 Atl. Rep. 737 (Penn.), *Wolf v. Lake Erie & W. R. R. Co.*, 45 N. E. Rep. 737 (Ohio), *Southern Ry. Co. v. Pugh*, 37 S. W. Rep. 555 (Tenn.), and *Jobert v. Troy City Ry. Co.*, 36 N. Y. Supp. 105, are omitted, but as a rule the work seems careful and complete. And this is the more notable and praiseworthy because of the difficulty of interpreting many of the cases on the subject of negligence, whose decisions as to the weight of evidence are constantly regarded as laying down rules of law.

J. P. C. JR.